

Type.—Adult male. Teeth worn. B. M. No. 21. 12. 5. 84. Original number 1999.

Collected 9th June 1921 by H. W. Wells; presented by the Bombay Natural History Society.

Dimensions of the type, measured in the flesh;—

Head and body 290 mm., tail 335 mm., hindfoot 56 mm., ear 27 mm. Weight 1·25 lbs.

Skull, greatest length 62 mm., condylo-incisive length 57·7 mm., zygomatic breadth 30 mm., nasals $24 \times 7\cdot3$ mm.; interorbital breadth 8·8 mm.; breadth across postorbital projections 19·2 mm.; zygomatic plate 5·6 mm.; palatilar length 29·3 mm.; palatal foramina 12×5 mm.; upper molar series 13.

This fine rat forms a second species of the genus *Dacnomys*, the discovery of which forms one of the most striking results of the Bombay Natural History Society's Survey. The original species having been named in honour of Mr. Millard, I have thought it suitable that the second should bear the name of his friend and partner in the carrying out of the Bombay Survey, the late Mr. R. C. Wroughton, to whose memory I am proud to pay this last tribute.

(B)

THE PORCUPINE OF ASSAM.

Among the Natural History Specimens obtained in Assam by Mr. J. P. Mills and presented by him to the Society there is a perfect and fully adult skull of a Porcupine, and I have been asked to determine its species.

It is of medium size, and certainly does not belong on the one hand to a large Crested Porcupine, such as the ordinary *Acanthion leucurus*, nor on the other to the small crestless porcupine, *A. hodgsoni*. It would however appear to be related to the intermediate group of which *A. brachyurus* is the oldest known member, a group to which also *A. klossi* and *subcristatus* belong. This group ranges from China through Siam to the Malay Peninsula, but has not hitherto been found in Assam.

The skull obtained by Mr. Mills would appear to represent a new species, which may be called—

Acanthion millsii, sp. n.

Size rather less than in *A. klossi*. General character of the skull more rounded and inflated than in *klossi*, almost as much as in *subcristatus*, the upper outline strongly bowed. Region across forehead considerably swollen, so that the outer bar of the anteorbital foramen is scarcely visible from above, while it is broadly visible in *klossi*; posterior part of interorbital region scarcely narrower than anterior. Nasals large, convex, much expanded behind, shorter but broader than those of *klossi*, and reaching well behind the lacrymal bones. Frontal suture comparatively long, just on half the length of the nasal suture, therefore longer proportionally than in the other species. Parietal region of skull rather short, not longer than the frontals, and with comparatively little occipital projection. Outer outline of zygomata more expanded at the level of the anteorbital bar, the two zygomata behind this bar more nearly parallel than in the allied species. Mesopterygoid opening broad.

Dimensions:—Upper length 131 mm.; condylo-incisive length 126 mm.; zygomatic breadth 69 mm.; nasals, length 69 mm., anterior breadth 25·5 mm., posterior breadth 39 mm.; breadth between outer corners of the anteorbital foramina 59 mm.; interorbital breadth anteriorly 51 mm., posteriorly 49 mm.; median length of frontals 33 mm., of parietals 32 mm.; palatilar length 62 mm.; breadth of mesopterygoid fossa 17 mm.; upper cheek-tooth series (crowns) 29.

Hab.—Naga Hills, Assam; type from Sangrachu, 3,500'.

Type.—Adult skull, female. B. M. No. 21. 7. 16. 4. Collected by Mr. J. P. Mills. Presented by the Bombay Natural History Society, "Brought in by Nagas"—J. P. M.

This porcupine may be distinguished from its only near relative *A. klossi* by the more swollen character of the face, the large broad nasals, parallel-sided interorbital space, and subequal frontals and parietals.

Anderson's *Hystrix yunnanensis* is a species with quite small nasals, allied to *javanicus*, and Blyth's *bengalensis* is certainly the same as *hodgsoni*, as I have been able to prove by some measurements of the skull of its type kindly sent me by Mr. Stanley Kemp of the Indian Museum.

Mr. Mills is to be congratulated on his discovery of this fine addition to the Assam fauna.

(C) A NEW FERRET BADGER (*HELICTIS*) FROM THE NAGA HILLS.

Among the specimens from the Naga Hills, presented by Mr. J. P. Mills to the Bombay Natural History Society, are four specimens of a Ferret-Badger (*Helictis*). It proves to belong to the small-toothed group of these animals, the true *Helictis*, not hitherto known to occur within the bounds of British India, those previously known being members of the other group, that of the large-toothed forms. In my opinion however these latter should be considered as of a different genus, for which the name *Melogale* is available.

Up to the present, the true small-toothed *Helictis* has been only known from China, so that its occurrence in the Naga Hills is of much interest. And even in China its range is rather to the East and South, than in the region approximating to the Naga Hills.

The species is clearly new, and may be described as follows :—

Helictis millsii, sp. n.

Size about as in *H. moschata*. Fur shorter than in that animal, in summer pelage only about 10 mm. long on the back, and almost without underfur, in winter pelage about 20 mm., with a fair development of under fur, but far less than in the *Helictis* of the lower Yang-tse. General colour "dark purplish grey" very different from the drabby brown, or dark wood brown, of the Chinese animal. Ground colour of top of head from muzzle down nape to withers, much darker, near blackish brown. White markings present, well defined, the white patches about of the same size as in examples of *moschata* from the lower Yang-tse, larger than in the typical specimens from Canton, median white line interrupted on nape, and ending on withers. Under surface dull whitish as usual, the sides of the belly grey. Ears grey with white edges. Hands and feet grey, the digits sometimes whitened. Tail blackish grey washed with whitish, the white not specially developed.

Skull apparently very like that of *H. moschata*, except that the anteorbital foramina are lower and more transversely extended. Teeth quite as in *moschata*.

Dimensions of the type, measured on skin :—

Head and body 365 mm. ; tail 163 mm.

Skull, greatest median length 79.6 mm. ; zygomatic breadth 46 mm. ; interorbital, breadth 20 mm. ; mastoid breadth 36.2 mm. ; anteorbital foramen 5.6×3.5 mm. ; palatal length 38 mm. Front of canine to back of m^1 24.7 ; length of p^4 on outer edge 6.4 mm.

Hab.—Naga Hills, Assam. Type from Mokokchung, 5,000'.

Type.—Adult male in summer pelage. B. M. No. 20.6.6.8. Original number 10. Collected 10th October 1919 and presented by J. P. Mills, Esq., to the Bombay Natural History Society, and by them presented in turn to the National Museum. Four specimens examined.

This fine species is at once distinguishable from the Chinese species by its general colour, dark grey instead of drabby brown.